## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (currently amended) A speech ~~voice~~ recognition apparatus disposed in a robot, comprising:

speech ~~voice~~ recognition means for recognizing speech~~a voice~~; and

control means for controlling said speech ~~voice~~ recognition means in accordance with a growth state of said robot;

wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to increasing maturity levels for said robot; said growth state being determined at least in part on the basis of a camera input;

wherein said robot determines and performs a predetermined action in accordance with the speech recognized by said speech recognition means and an occurrence probability of the predetermined action as determined by the growth state.

Claim 2. (canceled)

Claim 3. (currently amended) A speech ~~voice~~ recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said control means changes the recognition accuracy of said speech ~~voice~~ recognition means in accordance with the growth state of said robot.

Claim 4. (currently amended) A speech ~~voice~~ recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said speech ~~voice~~ recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech ~~voice~~ recognition are described; and

said control means controls said speech ~~voice~~ recognition means such that the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and voice recognition is performed using the weighted words.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A speech ~~voice~~ recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said speech ~~voice~~ recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a plurality of dictionaries in which words to be recognized in speech ~~voice~~ recognition are described such that the words to be recognized are divided into groups and the respective groups of words are stored in different dictionaries; and

said control means controls said speech ~~voice~~ recognition means such that the words described in the respective dictionaries are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and speech ~~voice~~ recognition is performed using the weighted words.

Claim 6. (currently amended) A speech ~~voice~~ recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said speech ~~voice~~ recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech ~~voice~~ recognition are described such that other words are linked to said words to be recognized; and

said control means controls said speech ~~voice~~ recognition means such that another word linked to a word, which is included in the dictionary and which is obtained as a speech ~~voice~~ recognition result, is output as a final speech ~~voice~~ recognition word depending upon the growth state of the robot.

Claim 7. (currently amended) A speech ~~voice~~ recognition apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein words to be recognized in speech ~~voice~~ recognition are described in said dictionary such that said words are linked to other acoustically or semantically similar words.

Claim 8. (currently amended) A speech ~~voice~~ recognition apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein:

said speech ~~voice~~ recognition means includes dictionary storage means for storing a dictionary in which words to be recognized in speech ~~voice~~ recognition are described; and

said control means controls the maximum number of words allowed to be described in said dictionary, in accordance with the growth state of said robot.

Claim 9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (currently amended) A speech ~~voice~~ recognition method for a speech ~~voice~~ recognition apparatus disposed in a robot, comprising the steps of:

recognizing speech~~a voice~~; and

controlling said speech ~~voice~~ recognition step in accordance with a growth state of said robot;

wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to increasing maturity levels for said robot; said growth state being determined at least in part on the basis of a camera input;

wherein said robot determines and performs a predetermined action in accordance

with the speech recognized in said speech recognition step and an occurrence probability of the predetermined action as determined by the growth state.

Claim 11. (currently amended) A storage medium on which a program to be executed by a computer to make a robot perform speech ~~voice~~ recognition is stored, said program comprising the steps of:

recognizing speech~~a voice~~; and

controlling said speech ~~voice~~ recognition step in accordance with a growth state of said robot;

wherein said growth state is comprised of a plurality of nodes corresponding to increasing maturity levels for said robot; said growth state being determined at least in part on the basis of a camera input;

wherein said robot determines and performs a predetermined action in accordance with the speech recognized in said speech recognition step and an occurrence probability of the predetermined action as determined by the growth state.